

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	The Sofia Central Prison	DATE DISTR.	4 May 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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1. The Sofia Central Prison is a large 5-story building which presently has 8,000 internees. Each floor has approximately 100 cells and is divided into 10 sections.
2. An underground floor with approximately 3,000 internees who have not been tried, is at the disposal of the Bulgarian secret police. Prisoners sometimes remain in this section for two or three years without knowing what their fate is to be.
3. Another floor which has approximately 800 political-military prisoners is at the disposal of the military and counter-espionage authorities. The majority of these prisoners are former Bulgarian military officers. They are under the control of the Military Prison Directorate and are not controlled by the Sofia Central Prison. It is not known why they are not confined in the separate military prison in Sofia.
4. One floor is reserved for prisoners guilty of civil crimes. Among these are approximately 400 who were apprehended while trying to cross the frontiers illegally into Yugoslavia, Greece, and Turkey.
5. In the seventh and eighth sections there are another 2,000 political prisoners who have been arrested for minor political crimes.
6. The most "dangerous" political prisoners, approximately 1,500, are interned in the ninth section. These prisoners have been arrested for anti-Soviet and anti-Cominform activities and most of them are "Titoists" or those who have dared to criticize the Soviet exploitation of Bulgaria. The worst treatment of prisoners is to be found in this section; the prisoners receive only a plate of unseasoned macaroni per day, without bread. Very often, these prisoners are disciplined for no reason and are put in subterranean solitary cells which are dark and unhealthy,

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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without food, and with water only. Among the prisoners in the ninth section are about 40 persons who were formerly high State Security and government officials. In this section are Petŭr Kunin, former member of the Bulgarian Politburo (imprisoned since 1949); Manol Sekelarov, former minister; Petŭr Semerdzhiev and Ivan Maslarov, former candidates of the Central Committee of the BCP; and Zhelya Boyev, former chief of police in Burgas.

7. The central prison of Sofia is completely full and therefore all those newly arrested are sent to the new prison in Birmirski, 10 kilometers from Sofia, which has a capacity of approximately 25,000 prisoners.

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